

**ALASKA DAILY EMPIRE**  
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TELEPHONE 3-74

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JUNEAU, ALASKA, NOV. 7, 1912.

**ALASKA'S FIRST LEGISLATURE.**

Judging by the first reports of the territorial election for Alaska's first legislature, we feel safe in saying that representative men will compose that body. And when we use the term "representative" we do not mean that they are composed of the "capitalistic class," or that they represent "special interests." On the contrary, we believe, that all interests of the territory will be faithfully and fairly represented. In other words we think that the people of Alaska will be given a square deal. And that is all that could, or should, be asked.

The new legislature will be composed of miners, merchants, a couple of lawyers, and a fisherman, the strictly professional class being in the small minority. Therefore we are to assume that a good beginning has been made, and from a personal knowledge of the men who will make up the first legislature, we have no fear of the results.

Specifically speaking, most of the tickets in the different divisions were composed of excellent men, who would have made first-class legislators, and who would have discharged their duties with an eye single to the territory's best interests.

The opening of Alaska's first legislature and the work that its members shall do will be watched with great interest, not only in Alaska, but outside of it.

**MAIL SERVICE DENIED.**

Complaints about Alaska's mail service are constant. There is always some community that has legitimate cause of complaint. Usually, however, they are in the interior or more remote places of the Western Alaskan coast. We know of a prosperous mining camp in interior Alaska that never gets a mail during the entire summer season, except that which trickles in through the good nature of river men who pass it along from the place where the government deposits it, a hundred miles away. And that community has about 300 people. They have complained? Of course they have, but without redress. The postoffice department says that a summer mail costs too much. What do you think of that?

The people of Yakutat have not had a mail in more than six weeks. It is accumulating steadily in the Juneau postoffice. Yet Yakutat is not far off the direct line of travel of a half-dozen steamer which make regular trips.

Much has been made of the fact that the postoffice department is now on a paying basis, for the first time in its history. Was it assisted in reaching that ideal state by a cheese paring policy that deprives pioneers and helpless communities of that great boon—a mail service?

**ALASKA CLIMATE.**

In Alaska they are discussing the question whether there has been a permanent change in climatic conditions in that territory. Last winter was one of unprecedented mildness, the more notable for the fact that in the central portion of the continent and along the Atlantic seaboard the winter was one of unusual severity. Now the report comes that the present autumn season is even milder than that of last year. Warm days have continued even in the interior of Alaska and the British Yukon well along toward the middle of October, a time when, in former days, the country was sealed by ice.

Along the coast it is reported that ancient glaciers receded during the past year with heretofore unheard-of rapidity, their reduction in size being so marked that, at the present rate of diminution, it is but a matter of few years before they will entirely disappear each summer.

It is hardly worth while to advance any theory of permanent climatic changes on the experience of a single year, or even two or three years. But there are already data to warrant some inquiry into the cause, if there is indeed a cause which promises to have a continuing effect.

Weather observers and scientific men generally are never inclined to accept theories based upon the contention that there has been a permanent change in any of the great nat-

ural phenomena, so they dismiss off-hand the theory that there has been a change in the course of the black current of Japan, bringing it nearer the coast, thus moderating the winter temperature of Alaska. But the numerous and severe volcanic disturbances off the coast of Alaska during the past years might possibly have had such an effect. — Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

**PRESIDENT TAFT'S FEARS.**

President Taft seems to fear that the election of Woodrow Wilson to the presidency "means an early change of economic policy with reference to the tariff." And he sincerely hopes that it can be made without "halting prosperity." Mr. Taft is a protectionist. He has always been such. Hence his opinion as to the economic policy of his party and the effect it has had upon the industrial life of the country. There are many men, who are Republicans, who do not share the belief that the tariff is a sacred institution, which the common people must approach with the awe and reverence with which a Hindu approaches his idol, and with the feeling: "I know that you are ugly, but I am told that you are great."

The tariff is not a fetish save in the minds of its beneficiaries. It is the conviction of the majority of the people of the United States as expressed at the polls in the recent election, that extreme protection has outlived its usefulness. The common people are entitled to some consideration all the time.

Furthermore, we submit that no uneasiness need be felt over disturbing business conditions, nor the halting of prosperity. Most people are agreed that a reduction of the tariff is demanded, but, if we are to believe the public utterances of President-Elect Wilson, or even if we read aright the tariff plank of the national Democratic platform, there will be no extremely radical tariff legislation, and, therefore, no possible reason for jeremiads over the prospect of a rearrangement of the tariff schedules so as to meet changed conditions.

**AS TO CLEAN POLITICS.**

"Locally it (the territorial election) has been the cleanest ever held in the city of Juneau," was the published remark of a Juneau business man to The Empire yesterday. It augurs well, then, for the town and the people. There is no reason why all elections should not be clean. The world is steadily progressing and with progress enlightenment comes a loftier view of the duties that good citizenship imposes. A battle is now being waged in all advanced civilized countries for social justice and the betterment of human conditions. The moral and political uplift are now more than mere high-sounding phrases. As a result politics are becoming removed to a higher level, and good government is no longer as "sounding brass or the tinkling of cymbals." It means something real and tangible in the efforts being made for better government, better living, straight thinking. Our government was instituted by the fathers of the republic to secure the inalienable rights of the people. For this it was created, and the growing tendency of our people to return to the first principles, is a healthy sign of the general awakening that is rapidly spreading throughout the nation. Human rights are beginning to be esteemed as of much more importance than the mere rights of property. We have had our object lesson, and the people are responding to the insistent call to the work that has surely been mapped out for the American people. Honest, clean government will make an honest, self-respecting people.

**WOMEN AND THE BALLOT.**

Wisconsin has rejected woman suffrage, and Kansas has adopted it. There are now seven states of the Union that have women suffrage—Washington, California, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and Kansas. They are all in the West it will be noted, where all things progressive spring, and blossom and fructify. In the ordinary course of events the question of enfranchising the women of Alaska will come to the front, as in the course of time it will be adopted in every state of the Union. The conservative East and the South will be the last to adopt it, although the militant female suffragists of New York state are conducting a strenuous campaign of education among the people of the Empire state.

The women in many states are interesting themselves in the question of the ballot. They are educating their husbands and fathers and brothers along the lines of free and equal suffrage. They demand it not as a concession but as a right. And why should they not? Sex should be no bar to the ballot. The feudal idea that places women in the category

of vassals has no place in the economy of a progressive people.

**"A WORKER IN BRASS."**

In a speech delivered by Governor Marshall in Seattle, during the campaign, he said, in referring to Governor Hiram Johnson, the Progressive candidate for vice president, that he had looked up the antecedents of Hiram in the Bible, and found that the original Hiram was a "worker in brass."

Now Governor Johnson is wondering how it happened that he lost California. Governor Johnson may be a fine artificer in brass, and robust orator, withal, but we should judge that he failed to carry California for his ticket through a loss of votes. By the peculiar operations of his direct primary law, the Republicans of California were unable to vote for their party's candidate. The Supreme Court of that state decided that the names of Taft electors could not be placed upon the ballot under the law, Gov. Johnson's law. He had seized the Republican party, bound it hand and foot, so to speak, and practically disfranchised it as a Republican organization. The result: They voted for Wilson, apparently almost en masse. And that's what's the matter with Hiram. It is, we submit, a case of "sounding brass."

**SIDELIGHTS**

It is to be hoped that the Democratic party will take its great victory modestly. Governor Wilson has set the example. Colonel Bryan, to whom more than any other man the president-elect owes his success, has also spoken modestly. The people have taken the Democratic party at their uttered word. They have expressed their willingness to give the Democracy another trial. The people wanted a change. They have got it. And they will watch the party closely and hold it strictly accountable to its promises. Those promises have been solemnly made and the strict performance of them will most indubitably be demanded. If they are broken the party will return to the wilderness and feed upon the husks for another twenty years, or forever.

Boss Bill Flinn, of Pennsylvania, is no doubt feeling quite well thank you. But Boss Penrose is scarcely able to sit up and take a little nourishment. And then there is Boss Barnes, of New York. And there, too, is Colonel "Suspender Jack" McGee. A bad day for bosses was Tuesday the 5th. Bad for all of them except he of Flinnsylvania.

John L. Sullivan supported the Bull Moose in Massachusetts; Jack Johnson aided the Taft cause in Chicago. Note the result? The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong.

There was a "break" in the "solid South." The Colonel carried three counties in Georgia—but the state at large failed to respond to the lead.

There is absolutely no doubt that Mr. Wilson will choose his own cabinet. But he is receiving gratuitous advice of expert Cabinet-Makers.

Who was it said that the average man doesn't vote for a candidate? He votes against one.

In Athens, says a press dispatch, the woman who wears a large hat in a theatre is fined \$40. After this, who will dare to talk about the decadence of Greece?

"After Standard Oil" is the caption of an editorial article in a popular journal. No, thank you, it would be preferable to be before S. O. were it not such a vain wish.

"Any good Democrat could have been elected!" No doubt that is just what Colonel William Jennings Bryan thought as he received the bulletins from Armageddon.

Standard Oil has a new competitor in the Orient. It is called the Koniglich-Niederlandische Petroleum Gesellschaft and it furnishes oil to India, China and Japan. May be something in a name after all.

There is discord in China, according to late advices. Too many political toms-toms?

And Chairman Hilles seems to have been the least among the prophets.

"This part of Alaska is enjoying real Puget Sound weather," said a Juneau citizen today. And why not? Is this not also in the banana belt?

In the interviews with local men, as published in The Empire yesterday, did you not notice that there was not a pessimistic note throughout? Even the losers were good ones, and most cheerful withal.

According to a dispatch received by The Empire yesterday the Socialist vote in the national election was about 800,000. Four years ago it totaled 420, 793, therefore the increase this year as compared with 1908 is nearly one hundred per cent. The gain is not without much significance and is well worth pondering over. Victor Berger, the Socialistic Congressman from the Milwaukee district was defeated on Tuesday, but it was accomplished only by the fusion of the other political parties. If Socialism is a menace the only way to remove it, or render it innocuous, is to remove the causes which create it. It is no use blinking the fact that Socialism is growing, and rapidly throughout the whole country.

The Socialist legislative tickets seem to have not made much of a showing in any of the judicial divisions in Alaska, except in the Fourth, where the Socialist party is exceptionally strong.

**SQUEEZING THE WATER FROM STOCKS.—WILSON.**

Nobody proposes to take these trusts and squeeze the water out of them. All that anybody proposes is to put them on their mettle and tell them that if they can carry that water they are welcome to carry it; but that they have got to earn what get rid of it in ways which they themselves are at liberty to devise; but that they have got to earn what they get, and not get it by monopolistic agreements and by throat competition. That will settle the question of watered stock in a generation, and I do not believe it will run out so suddenly as to drown anybody.—From Gov. Wilson's speech at Colorado Springs.

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\*\*This trip to Sheep Creek daily except 4:30 p. m. trip on Saturday, which is omitted and trips leaving Juneau at 6:30 p. m. and 11:00 p. m. are made instead, and Sheep Creek trips at 11:00 a. m., 6:30 p. m., and 11:00 p. m.

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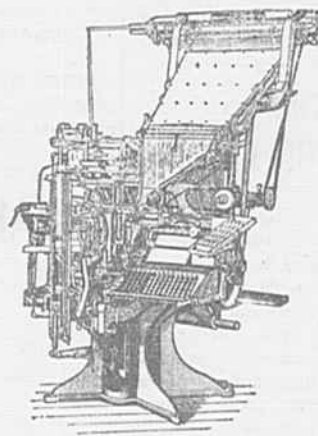
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**THE ALASKA DAILY EMPIRE**

A paper for all the people, all the time. Independent in every way. It stands for everything that will tend to the opening up and development of Alaska—especially South-eastern Alaska—along legitimate lines.

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